

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST FLYING OBJECTS

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS CALLED IN BY CHETVERIKOV, COUNSELOR, AMERICAN SECTION, MFA, TODAY AND RECEIVED LOW-KEY PROTEST REGARDING OBJECTS ALLEGEDLY THROWN FROM EMBASSY WINDOWS. CHETVERIKOV SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED INCIDENTS ON JANUARY 17 AND 20 WHERE POLYETHYLENE BAGS FILLED WITH WATER WERE THROWN FROM EMBASSY. HE ALSO ALLUDED TO PAST SERIOUS INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND AND ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY TAKE MEASURES TO SEE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS NOT BE REPEATED. HE THEN HANDED COUNSELOR NON-PAPER TEXT OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

2."ON JANUARY 17 OF THIS YEAR AT 1700 HOURS FROM THE TOP FLOOR OF THE CONETRAL SECTION OF THE EMBASSY BUILDING FOUR HEAVY PLASTIC BAGS WERE THROWN, FILLED WITH WATER, WHICH BURST OPEN WHEN THEY FELL TO THE GROUND AND SPLATTERED PASSERSBY. ONE OF THE PACKAGES FELL IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CITIZEN L.A. VERUSHKINA AND SOILED HER OVERCOAT.

3. "ON THE 20TH OF JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AT 1730 HOURS A CITIZEN V.N. BURLAK WHO WAS PASSING BY WAS INJURED BY A PACKAGE THROWN FROM A WINDOW OF THE EMBASSY.

4. "ONE MUST PARTICULARLY NOTE THE OUTRAGEOUS FACT WHICH
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TOOK PLACE ON MAY 3, 1974, WHEN FROM THE TOP FLOOR OF THE

EMBASSY BUILDING A METAL DISC OF STEEL WEIGHING FIVE KILOGRAMS AND THE SEAT OF A CHAIR WERE THROWN OUT.

5. "DURING 1973-74 MORE THAN 100 HOOLIGAN ACTS WERE COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE MILITIA GUARD, SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THROWING BOTTLES AND CANS WITH VARIOUS KINDS OF LIQUID. IT WAS ONLY BY CHANCE THAT THESE PRANKS DID NOT LEAD TO TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES."

6. COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF ANY SUCH INCIDENTS AND THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER SOVIETS HAD MADE ANY SIMILAR PROTESTS PREVIOUSLY AND CHETVERIKOV REPLIED THAT THIS GENERAL SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED WITH GARRISON IN 1973.

7. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THE CULPRIT OR CULPRITS IN JANUARY 17 AND 20 INCIDENTS ARE CHILDREN AND ARE MAKING A VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION AND DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO INSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF ANYTHING OF THIS KIND IN THE FUTURE.
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